



Hurricane Harvey – Texas Unified Command Mission Assignment Transition from Response to Recovery

Beaumont/Port Arthur Branch Operational Activity Transition Record For Orphan Drum and Container Collection and Spills/Discharges from Facilities

To: Kathryn Saucedo
Region 10 Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

From: Hurricane Harvey Unified Command

Thru: Hurricane Harvey - Texas Unified Command for Emergency Support
Function (ESF) #10

The Unified Command (UC) has completed ESF-10 assignments under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Mission Assignment number 4332DR-TX-EPA at the Beaumont/Port Arthur Branch and intends to transition to the recovery phase of operations. A summary of response actions are outlined below. As a result, the UC is recommending initiation of an organized, thoughtful, and gradual reduction of personnel to facilitate a smooth transition back to normal operations with State and local authorities.

On September 7, 2017, Texas Governor Abbott created the Governor's Commission to Rebuild Texas. EPA agreed to support the Governor's Commission to effectively coordinate the State's effort to recover and rebuild public infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Harvey and will do so under a separate FEMA Mission Assignment for Long-term Recovery, if issued by FEMA. The duties of the Governor's Commission shall include: assisting local governmental entities and nonprofit organizations to assess and identify rebuilding needs and to navigate State and federal resources available for the rebuilding effort; advocating for the interests of State and local government on matters related to disaster response; and providing expertise and assistance to local governmental entities and nonprofit organizations throughout the rebuilding process.

EPA Incident Commander

Date: _____

TCEQ Incident Commander

Date: _____

Action: 1	Purpose and Background
Assignee(s):	Operations Section Chief and Branch Director
Information: FEMA Interagency Agreement (IAG) and Mission Assignment (MA): 4332-DR-TX-EPA-03 Operational Branch: Beaumont/Port Arthur (Charlie) Area of Responsibility (AOR)/Counties: Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Tyler Operational Category: Assessment, identification, removal and disposal of orphan drums and containers. Assessment, identification, abatement, containment, and mitigation of potential or actual discharges/releases from facilities. Authorized Activities: Conduct field operations to remove and dispose of oil and hazardous substances in the form of orphan drums and containers, and conduct field operations to abate, contain, and mitigate potential or actual discharges/releases from facilities.	

Action: 2	Findings
Assignee(s):	Operations Section Chief and Branch Director
Milestones: The UC conducted response activities to mitigate exposure threats from oil and hazardous substances associated with orphan drums and containers, and potential or actual discharges/releases from facilities. These recovery efforts were focused throughout the affected areas of the Beaumont/Port Arthur Branch AOR. Some orphan drums and containers were recovered in the incorporated areas while others were associated with the rural and sensitive areas (open water, marsh, and swamp areas) of the Beaumont/Port Arthur Branch AOR. These orphan drums and containers appeared to have originated from land-based businesses, and/or off-shore petroleum operations. Prior to beginning recovery operations, both ground and aerial reconnaissance (where applicable) were conducted. The UC was able to: gather information on recovery	

targets; evaluate possible access routes; procure temporary staging locations (if necessary); determine appropriate equipment needs; and evaluate safety considerations. The UC also assigned unique identifications in the Hurricane Harvey Response Manager database for orphan drum and container targets and facility discharge/release locations.

Following the reconnaissance, the UC created tactical maps of all targets located within the Beaumont/Port Arthur Branch AOR. Once recovery of an orphan drum/container was completed, the target was closed in the Response Manager database. The Response Manager database was also used to track facility discharges/releases. Following assessment and removal (if necessary) of a discharge/release, or if the event was turned over to a State or Federal agency, it was closed in the Response Manager database by UC.

The UC developed performance guidelines in conjunction with both State and Federal natural resources trustee agencies. The goal of the response effort was to minimize any collateral environmental damage, while mitigating hazardous material threats to public health and environment.

The UC conducted the following best management practices and conservation measures:

- Preservation of Existing Habitats: Recovery activities were minimized and focused on the protection of existing vegetation.
- Recovery Equipment: Equipment was selected and employed to avoid or minimize adverse effects to habitat and wildlife.
- Spill Prevention: Control and countermeasures were implemented to reduce the risk of spills during recovery operations.

Orphan Drums and Containers

The UC recovered orphan drums/containers in Beaumont/Port Arthur Branch AOR from approximately August 28, 2017 through September 22, 2017.

The UC processed a total of 132 orphaned drums/containers locations, utilizing the Hurricane Harvey Response Manager database, through the Beaumont/Port Arthur Branch. Some drums/containers were left in place because they were not a hazardous material threat or they were empty. These items did not pose a public health or environmental risk. Other drums/containers were left in place when owners could be identified and contacted, resulting in the owner performing removal of their items. In addition, some drums/containers were referred to other State or local agencies for follow up, if needed. Containers located on Federal land were referred to those agencies which own the land, such as United States Fish and Wildlife Service. These items cannot be addressed under ESF 10.

In the Beaumont/Port Arthur Branch AOR, no orphan drums/containers remain open that require recovery by the UC.

Facility Discharges/Releases

The UC conducted abatement and mitigation operations regarding facility discharges/releases in the Beaumont/Port Arthur Branch from approximately August 28, 2017 through September 22, 2017.

The UC processed a total of 62 potential facility discharges/releases, utilizing the Hurricane Harvey Response Manager database, through the Beaumont/Port Arthur Branch. A total of 8 discharges/releases, where cleanup is ongoing, was referred to the proper State or Federal agency for continued monitoring. The State/Federal agencies will follow their normal business practices to ensure cleanup activities associated with these discharges/releases are completed.

On September 26, 2017, TCEQ indicated they were ready to transition recovery activities from ESF-10 Unified Command back to the State.

Attachment 1: Mission Assignment 4332DR-TX-EPA-03-00 and Amended Mission Assignments 4332DR-TX-EPA-03-02 and 4332DR-TX-EPA-03-03

Attachment 2: Beaumont/Port Arthur Branch Table - Orphan Drums/Containers by County – Closed by Unified Command that were Referred to Responsible Parties or Other Agencies

Attachment 3: Beaumont/Port Arthur Branch Chart - Orphan Drum/Container Recovery Totals by Type

Attachment 4: Beaumont/Port Arthur Branch Table - Facility Discharges/Releases by County - Closed by Unified Command that were Referred to Other Agencies

Attachment 5: Beaumont/Port Arthur Branch Table - Facility Discharges/Releases with Ongoing Cleanups by County – Closed by Unified Command that were Referred to Other Agencies

Attachment 6: Beaumont/Port Arthur Branch Map - Facility Discharges/Releases with Ongoing Cleanups by County – Closed by Unified Command that were Referred to Other Agencies

Action: 3	Continuously evaluate operational activities and identify decision points for completion of activity or its transition back to State and/or County.
Assignee(s):	Operations Section Chief and Branch Director
<p>Activity Transition Criteria: Orphaned drum/container collection continued until transitioned to the State. Aside from the targets turned over to other Federal and State Agencies, all known hazardous material threats were mitigated. Containers that may have sunk, were hidden by debris, or were otherwise unknown to the UC may still be present.</p> <p>Abatement and mitigation operations regarding facility discharges/releases continued until transitioned to the State. Aside from the discharges/releases turned over to other Federal and State agencies, all known discharges/releases were mitigated. Unknown discharges/releases unknown to the UC may still be present.</p>	

Action: 4	Work with TCEQ officials to establish a mission transition strategy (including Outreach strategy) and mission completion schedule.
Assignee(s):	Branch Director
<p>Strategy details and schedule: Unified Command recovered all identifiable targets. Any future drums/containers and/or discharges/releases should be identified through normal business operations and normal business practices should be followed to ensure cleanup activities associated with these drums/containers and/or discharges/releases are completed.</p>	
Action: 5	Brief Agency contacts on activity completion prior to implementation.
Assignee(s):	Unified Command
<p>Results: The Unified Command has briefed their respective agency contacts prior to transition.</p>	

Action: 6	Concurrently Brief JFO/AFO on activity closeout prior to implementation.
Assignee(s):	Unified Command
<p>Results: No formal briefing to the JFO/AFO will be required for this activity as the Beaumont/Port Arthur Branch is closed out.</p>	

ATTACHMENT 1

FEMA MISSION ASSIGNMENT 4332DR-TX-EPA-03-00

AMENDED MISSION ASSIGNMENT 4332DR-TX-EPA-03-02

AND

AMENDED MISSION ASSIGNMENT 4332DR-TX-EPA-03-03

ATTACHMENT 2

TABLE

**ORPHAN DRUMS/CONTAINERS BY COUNTY – CLOSED BY UNIFIED
COMMAND, REFERRED TO RESPONSIBLE PARTIES OR OTHER
AGENCIES**

ATTACHMENT 3

CHART

ORPHAN DRUM/CONTAINER RECOVERY TOTALS BY TYPE

ATTACHMENT 4

TABLE

**FACILITY DISCHARGES/RELEASES BY COUNTY – CLOSED BY UNIFIED
COMMAND, REFERRED TO OTHER AGENCIES**

ATTACHMENT 5

TABLE

**FACILITY DISCHARGES/RELEASES WITH ONGOING CLEANUPS BY
COUNTY – CLOSED BY UNIFIED COMMAND, REFERRED TO OTHER
AGENCIES**

ATTACHMENT 6

MAP

**FACILITY DISCHARGES/RELEASES WITH ONGOING CLEANUPS BY COUNTY – CLOSED BY
UNIFIED COMMAND, REFERRED TO OTHER AGENCIES**